
GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
AGRICULTURE
OF
CAERNARVONSHIRE.



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GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
AGRICULTURE
AND
RURAL ECONOMY
OF
CAERNARVONSHIRE.
WITH
OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEANS OF IMPROVING IT,
By GEORGE KAY.
DRAWN UP
FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

EDINBURGH:
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1794.

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GENERAL VIEW

AGRICULTURE

MANUFACTURES

COMMERCE

THE STATE OF THE UNION

GEORGE WASHINGTON



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WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO THE READER.

IT is requested that this paper may be returned to the Board of Agriculture, at its office in London, with any additional remarks and observations which may occur on the perusal, *written on the margin*, as soon as may be convenient.

IT is hardly necessary to add, that this report is, at present, printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring farther information respecting the Husbandry of this district, and to enable every one to contribute his mite to the improvement of the country.

THE Board has adopted the same plan, in regard to all the other Counties in the United Kingdom; and will be happy to give every assistance in its power, to any person who may be desirous of improving his breed of cattle, sheep, &c. or of trying any useful experiment in Husbandry.

LONDON, }
June 1794. }

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AGRICULTURE

MINERAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEORGE B. WILSON



EDINBURGH

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

THIS county is furrounded by the sea, on all sides, except on the east, where it joins Denbigh and Merionethshires. It is very irregularly shaped; from the peninsulated point, that runs a long way out on the south west to Creyddyn hundred, (which lies on the east side of the river Conway) on the north east, it measures about 50 miles. Its breadth is various; the broadest part does not exceed 20 miles. It contains 68 parishes, and about 307,000 statute acres. The number of inhabitants could not be ascertained.

This county presents the most rugged and truly Alpine appearance of any in North Wales, and is as destitute of woods and enclosures, as the island of Anglesey. Its centre is occupied by a number of lofty mountains; but the famous Snowdon overtops the whole.

Penmaenmaer, which is situated close by the sea shore on the north, is a most tremendous mountain. On the side next to the sea, it is a perfect rugged precipice, and a road is cut through that part of the rock, defended by a stone and lime wall, for the safety of passengers. The mail coach to and from the city of London to Holyhead, (the station of the Dublin packet boats) passes this way. The road is perfectly secure, but the loose impending rocks from above present an awful appearance, threatening to fall down, and crush the traveller below. There are several other mountains, which are entirely inaccessible, on account of their steepness, and the vast number of loose hanging stones upon the sides; but, in general, they are green, and afford fine pasture for sheep. There are many other smaller hills, interspersed throughout the low part of this county, some of which are also craggy and bare. Caernarvon-

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shire,

shire likewise abounds in lakes, some of which are said to produce the char and gwiniad, both Alpine fishes. There is, notwithstanding a great quantity of arable land, the greatest proportion of which lies along its skirts; and on the south side and south east parts, extensive tracks of low ground stretch a considerable way into the interior parts of the county, which may be easily improved, but at present are of very little value. There are also narrow deep valleys between the hills, that produce barley and oats. Croyddyn hundred, which is separated from the great portion of Caernarvonshire, by the river Conway, besides affording excellent pasture for sheep, also produces oats and barley in the valleys; and, along the coast, wheat is cultivated, reckoned the finest in quality in North Wales.

Soil—Of the soils in Caernarvonshire, the most prevalent is gravel and hard loam, where it is under culture, with a little clay and sand. There are also a great quantity of moss or peat, besides large tracks of marshy meadow lands, very capable of being drained, and converted into good arable and pasture ground, which at present yield only very scanty crops of the coarsest kind of hay.

Climate.—On the high grounds or mountains, the air is always very cold and piercing. Snowdon's top is covered with snow, at least three fourths of the year, but in the low country, bordering on the sea, the climate is reckoned moderate. The season for sowing oats is generally in March, and for barley, in April and beginning of May. Where wheat is cultivated, it is commonly sown in the months of September and October, and the harvest is very generally reaped in August and September.

Rivers.—Of the rivers in Caernarvonshire, there is none that deserves particular notice, except the Conway on the eastern part of the county; it is above twelve miles in length, and is navigable for some miles up the country. It is increased by innumerable rivulets, from the mountain of Snowdon, that look down upon the vale through which it runs, until it discharge

charges itself into the sea at Aberconway. There are a very great number of smaller rivers and brooks that run in almost all directions, by which this county is finely watered.

Of Farms and their size.—With regard to the extent of farms, they are in general very small, few exceeding 60 acres of arable land, and the greatest proportion of them much less. The land is employed in pasture and husbandry. Of the arable, two thirds are in pasture, chiefly depastured by black cattle, sheep, and a few horses. Goats were formerly in great repute in this county, but are now totally dismissed, sheep being reckoned more profitable.

Leases.—Leases are as uncommon in this county as in all the others in North Wales: The lands being very generally occupied by tenants at will. It is very surprising that this should be the case, as Lord Penryhn, who possesses a very great estate in this county, had for some time been granting leases to his tenants for the space of 21 years, by which means he has doubled his rents, and I was informed that they paid more readily, and were more thriving, than those who have no leases, and only paid the old rent, which is one half. This I consider as a sufficient proof of the propriety of granting leases, and it astonished me that the proprietors did not immediately adopt that plan for their own interest. It is an undeniable fact, that many farmers, who are without leases, are afraid of improving their lands, lest they should be turned out next year, or be subjected to a much higher rent.

Rent of Lands.—As all the mountains in Caernarvonshire are common or waste land, it might be expected that the rent of land would average higher than it does. From the best information I could obtain, 3s. 6d. is about the average rent of the whole county, with the addition of public burthens, which are generally paid by the tenants, consisting of land-tax, tithes, poors rates, and six days labour of each team in the county annually, for the public and private roads. The best land along the sea coast lets at about 9s. *per* acre, and is employed in husbandry.

bandry and pasture. Fields in pasture, indifferently inclosed, and not properly drained, producing in many places rashes, let from 10 s. to 15 s. *per acre*; but the land that is sufficiently inclosed and drained, and laid down in good order, with clover and rye grass feeds, is worth 30 s. *per acre*. Pasture land always rents the highest, and is liable to a very trifling tithe; for instance, a mare and a foal pay only 4 d. and other cattle in proportion. In the neighbourhood of Caernarvon, there are many fine grass fields let as high as 40 s. and 50 s. and some at 3 l. *per acre*.

Tithes.—In some places of this county hay is tithed, in other places it is not. Corn is always tithed, which is considered a great bar to agricultural improvements.

Poors Rates.—Poors rates have become so very heavy a burthen in Caernarvonshire, that the gentlemen have had several meetings on the subject, and have come to the resolution of building a poors house, with work houses, in the town of Caernarvon, which it is expected will greatly lessen them.

Farm Houses and Offices.—The farm houses and offices require to be greatly amended. The farmers are not only in want of houses, sheds and farm-yards, but even those they have are frequently detached from each other. Small miserable huts are built on different parts of the farms, each sufficient only to contain a cow or two. The *inconveniency* attending this method, and likewise the loss of dung, must appear very obvious; for it is well known the greater the quantity laid together, it not only retains its strength and juices the better, but also fermentation is thereby promoted, a process absolutely necessary for this most important article in husbandry. Yet so little attention is paid to the preserving of it, by many farmers in this county, that it is carelessly thrown out, and frequently scattered about, so that its powers are totally exhausted, before it is applied to the purposes for which it was intended. Nor is any attention paid to the spot on which it is collected; it is sometimes laid on an hill, at other times on a declivity,
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by which means it runs off: Whereas a concave piece of ground should be made, for the purpose of its preservation.

Manures.—From the want of offices and farm yards, the quantity of dung collected is very trifling. Lime is the chief manure in use. Shell-sand is found in different parts of the coast, and applied as a manure, although not accounted so rich in quality as that at Red wharf, in Anglesey. Compost dunghills are sometimes made of dung, lime, and soil well intermixed; and the soil most commonly used, is that where potatoes have been raised, very frequently two years successively, the more to pulverise the soil. The ridges adjacent to the fences are almost always appropriated for this purpose, being more fertile, on account of the dung that is dropt from the cattle, which naturally retire thither for shelter. Dung and moss have also been tried as a manure, and have answered well; but when lime has been added, the compost has been found to be more powerful. As this county abounds with moss of all qualities, it is to be regretted that it is not more generally used as a manure. The farmers in general pay little attention to the making of compost dunghills, or even to the collecting of dung. Want of leases, and want of proper housing, are two great obstacles in the way. The great bulk of the cattle lye in the fields all winter, without any kind of shelter, and a little coarse meadow hay, or straw, is given them, as is the practice in Anglesey. It is needless to repeat again, that an immense quantity of dung is lost in this way. The same method is observed here, in regard to the driving out the dung before winter, as in Anglesey. It lies exposed to the winds and rain, by which means it loses almost all its vegetative power. It is generally applied to the fields intended for a barley crop; and the composts are more frequently used as a top dressing for hay.

Rotation of Crops.—There is no proper system of husbandry observed in this county by ordinary farmers; it is perfectly similar to that practised in Anglesey. Oats and barley are almost the only crops cultivated, with a very little wheat, along the

coast. Green crops are seldom or never raised. The common mode of cropping is, 1st, oats; 2d, barley, commonly with one furrow; and oats after oats are repeatedly sown, until the land will scarcely produce the feed. Some farmers sow in a few pounds of red clover, with some bushels of coarse meadow hay-seeds, which seldom make their appearance, from the foul and exhausted state of the land. Summer-fallow is never thought of, which, however, would answer extremely well, particularly on the strong clayie soils; but the want of leases and the tithes, deter them from ever attempting it. Potatoes are cultivated on a very small scale. I have already mentioned, that the ridges next to the fences are commonly planted with potatoes for two years successively, the better to pulverize the soil, which afterwards constitute part of a compost dunghill. Those ridges soon recover by being pastured, the cattle naturally seeking shelter under the fence, however indifferent it may be.

The Reverend Mr Ellis of Yscuberhen, whom I consider as the most active and skilful improver in Caernarvonshire, adopts a very different plan; his rotations are as follows: 1st, oats after pasture; 2d, turnip-rooted cabbage or potatoes on ground well limed and dunged; 3d barley, with 16 pound red clover, and a bushel of clean rye grass seed, when he intends to take a crop of wheat after the hay, which he sometimes does, without any other manure than the second crop of clover, which is cut, and raked into the furrows as the land is ploughed.

But if the field is intended for pasture, after the first crop of hay, he only sows 12 pound of red clover, and 8 pound of white. When wheat follows the hay crop, it is always succeeded by turnip-rooted cabbage, and the same rotation goes on. By observing this rotation, he always raises excellent crops. The soil consists of gravel, and loam, generally shallow; on part of the farm, which is most completely drained and highly cultivated, he has found lime to be of the greatest advantage to it. The parts that he first began to improve are almost converted into a loamy soil, by frequent culture, dung, and lime; and from
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its appearance promises soon to equal the best land in his farm. Mr Ellis has made many experiments in husbandry. He has cultivated turnips, cabbage, carrots, mangel-wurzel, and many other plants, but has found the turnip-rooted cabbage to answer best with him, and the most nourishing food for cattle. He takes the opportunity of dry weather to drive them off the field, to prevent its being poached, and cuts afterwards off the roots and tops, the latter of which are given to the young cattle; they are piled up, close by the houses in which the cattle are fed, and, by being properly covered with straw, keep perfectly well, without the smallest detriment to the quality of the root. Mr Ellis means to make trial of yams as soon as he can procure seed. The gentlemen in this county have in my opinion been greatly obliged to him, for his exertions in the promoting of husbandry; and I am astonished, that none of them have as yet benefited by them. The land he now occupies was let for 3s. or 4s. *per* acre formerly; but, from its improved state at present, it is not worth less than 30s. *per* acre for pasture.

Corn Measure.—A peget is equal to an English quarter; half a peget makes a hobet, half a hobet makes a stored, and half a stored is equal to a Winchester bushel; a kibben contains 4 English gallons. The measure is not the same throughout all the county; on the east parts it is little larger.

Average produce of Corn.

Barley 7 hobets *per* statute acre

Oats 8 ditto ditto

Wheat 8 ditto ditto very little of which is cultivated.

Price per hobet.

Barley 13s and 14s. Oats 6s. and 7s. Wheat 20s. and 24s.; and feed Wheat 28s.

Hay.—Clover and rye grass would be more generally cultivated for hay, were it not for a very unaccountable opinion entertained by the farmers, that the finest artificial, or even natural hay, are possessed of less nourishment, than the coarse, rushy, benty

benty hay, from the marshes, which is always put up before it is sufficiently dried, that it may heat and become mouldy. This hay, say they, deprived of all its juices, makes the cattle drink a great deal more water, by which means they sooner become fat. I would not have so much wondered at their preferring natural to artificial hay; because what they consider as artificial, is a parcel of vile weeds, with a very small mixture of clover; but, even these, are certainly preferable to the coarse trash, gathered from the marshes, at a very great expence, as they cannot bear carriages, and the hay must therefore be brought off on the people's backs. Even were leases granted, and every other encouragement given, while such absurd notions are entertained, no improvement could possibly take place. This idea strikes against draining, one of the most important branches in husbandry. The price of hay cannot be easily ascertained, as it is bought by the yard of 38 inches. Hay for sale is always put up in a stack of an oblong form, of various heights and breadths, yet neither height nor breadth is measured; it is only the length that is ascertained.

Draining.—Of all the counties in North Wales, none require draining more than this, and there is none where it has been less attended to. Very large tracts of marshy land of different kinds, are to be seen, which, in their present state, are of little value, that might be converted into good arable and pasture fields, by this operation. Some parts afford a little meadow-hay, very coarse, which the farmers are extremely partial to, preferring it, as winter food for their cattle, to all other hay, which I have already had occasion to take notice of. But were these lands properly drained and flooded, which, from their situation in many instances, could easily be accomplished, on account of the numberless streams that flow down from the mountains, they would soon become more valuable than any in the county, by producing early spring food for the cattle, and afterwards ten times the quantity of hay which they do in their present state; and both pasture and hay would be found

very

very far superior in quality. An improvement of this kind is, no doubt, the business of the proprietors. The farmers, I believe, have neither the means, nor the inclination, but I am perfectly confident, that it is one of the greatest improvements of which this county is capable; and, with the addition of plantations, would render it very beautiful.

Watering or Flooding of Land.—The flooding of land in this county, has been tried with great success. The reverend Mr Williams of Pinter, made the experiment upon his lands, about two years ago, and the proof he has already had of its utility, makes him regret that the stream is not sufficient to water his whole estate. He intends, however, to have 100 acres under that operation next year. Mr Ellis of Yscuberhen, of whose improvements I have already taken notice, has for many years flooded as much land as his small stream could admit, and finds that flooding produces early grass, and a more abundant crop of hay, than a top dressing of dung, having made the experiment frequently on the same field. These are the only two gentlemen, that I could hear of, who have availed themselves of the fertilizing stream. Whereas, there are innumerable rivulets, flowing down the sides of the mountains into the valleys, at very regular distances, that pass along unnoticed, which, if properly applied, would be found almost equal to a stream of gold. As I will have occasion to take notice of some land in the adjoining county, Merionethshire, of a worse description, that has been drained and flooded, in a very superior style, I beg leave to refer to it.

Inclosures.—A great part of Caernarvonshire is still unenclosed. The old fences appear to have been finished in a very imperfect manner. They consist chiefly of dry stone walls, and earthen banks. The dry stone walls are commonly about 4 feet in height, and seem to have been built of the small round stones, gathered from the land. The fields that have been more recently enclosed, are fenced with dry stone walls, and ditch and
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hedge, either of hawthorn alone, or intermixed with furze. The enclosures are of various sizes, (from 4 to 20 acres) according to the extent of the farm. The dry-stone walls, which are built of quarried rock, 3 feet base, tapering to 20 inches at top, cost 8s. or 9s. *per* rood of 24 feet. Earthen banks, $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, cost 1s. to 1s. 6d. *per* rood. By enclosing, the rents are doubled, and if done in a very complete manner, they are frequently tripled. Enclosing is reckoned favourable to population.

Wood-Lands.—This county, once encumbered with woods, is now left naked and bare; except around the gentlemen's seats, scarcely a tree is to be seen, and those are not very numerous. They are all situated near the sea coast, notwithstanding of which, the plantations thrive very well, which is a proof that trees will grow in an exposed situation, if properly protected. There is no county in North Wales so deficient in woods, as this, and Anglesey. The old forests have been cut down, and it has never been thought of to supply their places with new plantations; by which means both counties have suffered greatly. It is to be hoped, that the gentlemen will soon see it their interest to plant, not only as it affords shelter to the fields, and adds beauty to the county, but because it will turn out highly advantageous to themselves.

Roads.—Throughout all this county they have most excellent materials for roads, which are made and supported by the collections at the turnpike gates, and the statute labour, as is the practice in the other counties of North Wales. The turnpike roads are in general kept in very good repair, but the parochial are very much neglected. I generally found one or two turnpike gates in a stage, and always remarked, that the person who attended could speak English, which is of great use to a traveller who is ignorant of the Welsh language.

Waste Lands.—All the mountains in Caernarvonshire, and also some part of the low grounds on the west side of the county, are commons. The mountains are chiefly depastured by sheep,

sheep, and the low grounds by black cattle. Although it is a practice in this county, amongst the tenants, to meet annually, and to determine what is the proper number of sheep which each ought to send to the mountains, (which is regulated according to the extent or size of his farm, yet) this does not prevent them from being almost always overstocked; and rather than run the risk of their stock being starved, many sell their privilege at 4 d. *per* head for the season, which is commonly from May, when they are driven up, until Michaelmas, when they are brought down. I had been informed, that it was a common practice in this county, for families to go up to the mountains, in the summer season, to attend their flocks, and to reside in huts, in which they made cheese; but, upon minute enquiry, I found that no such custom existed. On the contrary, the wedders only are sent up, and the ewes are always kept on the low grounds, with their lambs, which are commonly weaned when three months old, and put upon the best pasture. The ewes are afterwards milked for two months, which is mixed with cows milk, for making cheese. Although the mountains in many places are rocky and bare, yet there are a vast number which are green, and would afford excellent pasture, were they private property, and inclosed, which would prevent them from being overstocked. Draining is very much wanted in the lower commons, as well as planting.

Sheep.—There are two distinct breeds of sheep in this county. On the western side, opposite to the island of Anglesey, they are crossed with the breed of that island, which is considered to be more subject to the rot and scab, than the pure native breed in the other parts of this county. I am however inclined to think, that there is a little partiality in favour of the native breed, as I found upon particular enquiry, in different parts of the county, that the loss in both kinds was exactly the same; 2 *per* cent in a good, and 5 *per* cent in a bad year. The cross breed weighs from 14 to 16 pound *per* quarter, producing 9 pound of tallow. The pure native breed weighs about 3
pound

pound *per* quarter, and produces 4 pound of tallow. The lambing season is in March, April and May, seldom more than one at a birth, well covered with wool. The wedders are driven down from the mountains, in the month of July, and shorn along with the ewes; and about Michaelmas, it is a common practice to clip a little from below their necks. Shearing twice a year is never practised in this county. The average weight of a fleece, is about 2 pound averdupoise. The fleece of the crosses breed weighs more; lambs are clipped in August, and generally produce about 6 pound of wool *per* score, worth 8d. *per* pound; a good wedder from the mountains sells for 6s. and 7s.

Wool.—The wool is chiefly white, which, with a great quantity purchased from the island of Anglesey, is manufactured in this county. The finest sorts are picked out, for broad cloth and flannels, and the coarsest kinds are employed in making blankets. The broad cloth is very commonly made 7-8ths of a yard wide, and sells from 4s. to 5s. *per* yard of 38 inches. The flannel is sold from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. *per* yard. The manufacture is principally carried on by the farmers and their servants, and the wool is dyed by themselves generally of a blue colour for making broad cloth, which is commonly sold to shopkeepers, and at the different markets and fairs in the county. The flannels are most commonly sold for the English market.

Black Cattle.—The breeding of black cattle in Caernarvonshire, is a very principal object. The native breed is commonly raised, being thought the most hardy, and therefore few attempts have been made to improve it. Lord Newborough's father, the late Sir John Wynne, made the experiment, and succeeded, by introducing both English bulls and cows of the best breeds, which were crossed by the pure breed of this county, and found equally hardy and much more profitable. Some gentlemen, since that period, have followed the same plan. The reverend Mr Ellis of Yscuberhen, to whom the county is so much indebted for the many experiments he has made, brought
into

the county, both English bulls and cows of the Bakewell and Warwickshire kinds, which were also crossed by the native breed of the county, and are found to be full as healthy and hardy. This breed has also been tried up the country, on the side of the mountains, and found to answer as well, as in the low grounds. They are reared at the same expence; and at 3 years old, the age at which they are commonly sold, they fetch two or three pounds a-head more than the native breed. The queys are generally sold at a year and an half old. The drovers, I was informed, are great enemies to the improvement of stock; and the reason assigned for it is, that were larger and finer cattle reared, they might meet with more rivals in the trade, which is at present in a very few hands, by which means they have both credit and prices on their own terms. I mentioned, in the report of Anglesey, that two English drovers purchased 4786 head of cattle, which is nearly one half of the annual sale of the island. They always prefer, or pretend to prefer the small native breed. But were English bulls of the finest shape and size more generally introduced, the stock would be greatly improved. This would be a great inducement to many other drovers, to come into the county to purchase the cattle with ready cash, instead of credit, which is at present the practice, whereby many an honest farmer is duped out of his property in whole or in part. The dairy is no great object in this county; a little cheese and butter is made for sale.

Horses.—A few horses are bred for sale in Caernarvonshire, besides those reared for agricultural purposes. The breed is the worst in North Wales. Racing or galloping stallions were some time ago introduced, with a view to improve it, which, however, as I was informed, has had quite the contrary effect, as a stock is produced from this cross breed, neither useful for draught, nor fit for saddle. To correct this error, no time should be lost in bringing into the county some of the most active, stout draught stallions to be found in England. The same practice prevails here, of beginning their horses to work

at a year and half old, which is too general in North Wales. All the husbandry business is performed by horses, yoked in a line, as is the case in all the other counties. Oxen are seldom employed, although some farmers approve of them, but the servants have a great aversion to work them.

Swine.—Although there are fewer pigs bred in this county, than in some others in North Wales, yet many of the farmers rear them, and find it a profitable business. They are sold alive at $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. *per* pound averdupois. Mr Ellis of Yscuberhen tried to rear his pigs on clover, but found it not to answer, being of too laxative a nature. He prefers boiled potatoes with butter milk and whey, as the best and cheapest food.

Implements of Husbandry.—The ploughs and carriages used in this county are perfectly similar to those in Anglesey; and the land is ploughed shallow and unequal, in the same manner. The harrows in both are also alike. Gorse or furze mills are used in some parts of the county. No drilling machines are used, except by Mr Ellis; there are very few farmers in this county, and rollers are very seldom employed.

Price of Labour.—Farmers pay the servants from 5 l. 5 s. to 7 l. 7 s. *per annum*.

Gentlemen frequently give 10 l. 10 s. to 12 l. 12 s. *per annum*.

Both furnish them with bed and board.

Day labourers in spring and summer get 1 s. *per* day, and, in the winter season, 10 d. without victuals. The wages, during the hay and corn harvests, are 8d. and 9d. *per* day, with victuals. The corn is commonly cut with the sickle, except in Creyddyn hundred; the oats and barley are cut with the scythe. For threshing, 16 s. is allowed, or 10d. *per* day. The common hours of labour are from 6 to 6, or from day light until dark, in short days.

Of the servants in this county a great number are methodists; and it is a very common practice when they engage with their masters, to contract for smaller wages, that they may have the liberty of attending at all times the methodist meetings, which are very frequent. This practice is very much complained

complained of; for however necessary their attendance at work may be, yet if an itinerant preacher comes into the country, who generally preaches on the high ways, they walk off, and leave their work, to the great detriment of their masters. There is no such custom as that in any other of the counties in North Wales, as far as I know, or heard of, and it could be easily prevented in this, were the gentlemen to put a stop to those idle people coming into the country. The preachers are, as I was informed, an illiterate set of people, who come for the purpose of extorting money from the credulous; and consequently are very incapable of giving instruction; on the contrary, they are always apt to mislead.

Price of Provisions.—The price of provisions varies very much in different parts of the county. At Caernarvon, and in its neighbourhood, beef, mutton, and veal, sell from 3d. to 3½d. *per lib.* averdupois; Eggs, 6d. *per dozen*; butter, 6d. and 7d. *per lib.*; a goose, 1s. 8d. to 2s.; a turkey, 2s. 6d.; a pair of fowls, 1s.; a pair of ducks, 1s. 2d.; and a roasting pig, 4s. On the east and south parts of the county, beef and mutton, 2d. *per lib.*; veal, 1½d.; and a goose, 1s. The other articles are all nearly the same price as at Caernarvon.

Fuel.—The price of coals is very high in Caernarvonshire; but as peat or turf is got in very great abundance, the poor people feel very little inconveniency from it. 28s. *per ton* is the common price; they are brought coastways, which subjects them to 5s. 6d. *per ton* duty. It is most severely felt in the burning of limestone.

Paring and Burning.—The practice of paring and burning is totally given up in Caernarvonshire, being supposed to impoverish the soil; the tenants are therefore prohibited from it.

Run Rig.—There are no lands under this description, that I could hear of; but there is a good deal of mixed property, which might be exchanged, and thereby be brought under a proper system of management, which, in its present detached state, cannot easily be done.

Commerce

Commerce and Manufactures.—The exportation of slates is the principal trade from this county; about 35,000 l. worth are shipped at different ports annually. The best kind is sold at 15s. *per* ton, at the quarries. Lead was formerly exported; but little is done in that way at present, on account of the war. Wool is the principal manufacture, of which I have already taken notice.

Towns.—Caernarvon, from which this county takes its name, is the capital. It is a neat, pleasant, well built town, situated on the Menai, with a castle, once remarkable for its grandeur, but now in ruins. It was built by Edward I. the conqueror of Wales, and his son, afterwards Edward II. was born in it, who was the first prince of that name, of English extraction. The gentlemen have it in contemplation, to convert part of it into a poors house. The town is walled round, and has two principal gates. It is inhabited by many genteel families, but is a place of very little trade. It has four fairs in the year, for black cattle, cloth, flannels, and pedlars wares. The concourse of people, who come from all the different parts of the county, to be present on these occasions, is very great. The city of Bangor, situated also on the Menai, is of great antiquity, and, in ancient times, was very considerable, but is now a very mean looking place, of no trade whatever. It is a bishop's see, and the principal buildings are the cathedral church, and the bishop's palace; it was formerly fortified with a castle, the ruins of which are not now to be seen. It has three fairs in the year for black cattle. Aberconway, situated at the mouth of the river Conway, on the side of a hill, is a handsome town, walled round; the castle is now in ruins. It is remarkably well situated for trade, yet neither commerce nor manufactures are carried on there. It has four fairs in the year for cattle. On the south side of this county, is a small town, called Pwllheli, a place of no trade, except a few sloops that bring coals for the supply of the inhabitants of that part of the county.

THE END.



